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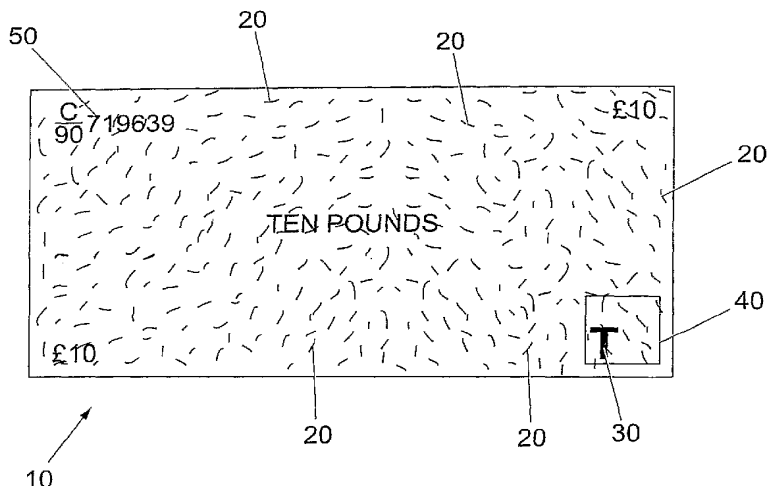
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING AN OBJECT HAVING RANDOMLY DISTRIBUTED IDENTIFICATION ELEMENTS



(57) Abstract: An object (10) (e.g. a bank note or a cheque) having a primary identifier is described. The primary identifier is in the form of a plurality of identification elements (20) embedded in the object (10), the identification elements (20) being visually detectable when illuminated by infrared or ultraviolet electromagnetic radiation but being visually indistinguishable from the rest of the object (10) when illuminated with visible light. The identification elements (20) are randomly distributed so that the positions of the identification elements (20) are unique to the object (10), and the object (10) has a reference point in the form of a printed symbol (30) defining an area of the object (10) in which at least some of the identification elements (20) are provided. A method and a detector for verifying that such an object (10) is genuine are also described.

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